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At page 13, lines 13-15, rewrite the sentence "Sole 51 is constructed ... the user foot." and add a sentence as follows -- Sole 51 is constructed as generally known in the art, and may, for example, be comprised of a relatively tough and wear resistant outsole and a softer and more cushioned midsole. A soft topsole or footbed for contact with the user's foot may be adhered to the upper surface of the sole. As used herein, the term "sole" refers to the structural sole of the footwear, and includes a unitary sole, an outsole and/or a midsole, but does not encompass an insole. NM

#### In the Drawings

Figs. 1-4 of the application show an article of footwear, e.g., a sandal, in dashed lines. As all the claims of the application now positively call for "an article of footwear," Applicants request leave to file formal drawings showing the sole, forefoot straps and heel posts in solid lines.

#### In the Claims

Cancel claims 1-25 without prejudice. Add claims 26-51 as follows:

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26. An article of footwear, comprising:

- a) a sole, the sole having a midfoot portion and a heel portion;
- b) a channel extending transversely across the midfoot portion of said sole and at least partly under said sole;
- c) an instep strap connected to the heel portion of said sole, said strap having a first portion extending in a forward direction transversely across a wearer's instep from